

NUTRITION SERVICES DIVISION MANAGEMENT BULLETIN		No. 02-800
TO:	All School Nutrition Program Sponsors County Superintendents of Schools Diocesan Superintendents of Schools	ISSUE DATE: March 2002
ATTENTION:	Food Services Directors	
SUBJECT:	Traditional and Enhanced Food-Based Meal Pattern in the School Breakfast Program	
REFERENCE:	7 CFR 220.8(g)(2), 220.8(g)(3)	

This management bulletin clarifies the term “equivalent combination” found in the traditional and enhanced food based meal pattern charts of the 7 Code of Federal Regulations (7 CFR) 220.8 (g)(2) and 220.8 (g)(3) of the School Breakfast Program regulations.

The term “equivalent combination” refers to combining two or more different types of grains/breads, two or more meat/meat alternates, or a combination of grains/breads and meat/meat alternates to satisfy the meal requirement. This option provides the menu planner with additional flexibility when writing menus.

The minimum serving size for each item contributing to the total serving requirement is 0.25 ounce for meat/meat alternate or ¼ serving of grains/breads. For example, instead of offering one full serving of grains/breads and one full serving (one ounce) of meat/meat alternate, a school could offer 1 ½ servings of grains/breads and 0.5 ounce of meat/meat alternate.

For schools using Offer versus Serve, a student must take a full serving of any component when selecting a reimbursable meals. Thus, in the example above, it would not be considered a reimbursable meal if a student selected 1.0 ounce meat/meat alternate, ½ cup fruit juice, and 8 fluid ounces of milk.

If you have any questions, please contact your Nutrition Services Division Representative directly, or the Field Services Unit at (916) 323-4558 or (800) 952-5609.

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